

I CLAIM:

1. A gas turbine engine comprising:
 - a compressor section;
 - a turbine section;
 - a combustor, in flow communication with the compressor and turbine sections;
 - at least one combustor mounting assembly adapted to support the combustor within the engine, the combustor mounting assembly having: a longitudinal axis; and an articulating joint having a first and second portion, the first and second portions having mating concave and convex curved surfaces, said curved surfaces each having a curvature in two mutually orthogonal planes, and wherein said first and second portion have a plurality of rotational degrees of freedom relative to each other about axes transverse said longitudinal axis.
2. A gas turbine engine according to claim 1 wherein the articulating joint has a translational degree of freedom parallel to said longitudinal axis.
3. A gas turbine engine according to claim 2 wherein the articulating joint comprises at least one longitudinal slide surface.
4. A gas turbine engine according to claim 1 wherein the combustor mounting assembly includes an outwardly projecting boss.

5. A gas turbine engine according to claim 4 wherein the articulating joint is housed within an internal surface of the boss.

6. A gas turbine engine according to claim 5 wherein an external slide surface of the articulating joint is slidably housed within said internal surface of the boss, and wherein the joint is free to slide parallel said longitudinal axis relative to the boss while constrained transverse said longitudinal axis.

7. A gas turbine engine according to claim 3 wherein the combustor mounting assembly includes a pin engaging at least one of the first and second portions of the articulating joint.

8. A gas turbine engine according to claim 7 wherein the articulating joint includes an internal slide surface, and the pin has an external slide surface.

9. A gas turbine engine according to claim 1 wherein the first and second portions of the articulating joint have opposing spherical joint surfaces.

10. A gas turbine engine according to claim 9 wherein the first and second portions are mutually nested sleeves.

11. A combustor for a gas turbine engine, the combustor comprising:

at least one combustor mounting assembly having: a longitudinal axis; and an articulating joint having a first and second portion, the first and second portions having mating concave and convex curved surfaces, said curved surfaces each having a curvature in two mutually orthogonal planes, and wherein said first and second portion have a plurality of

rotational degrees of freedom relative to each other about axes transverse said longitudinal axis.

12. A combustor according to claim 11 wherein the articulating joint has a translational degree of freedom parallel to said longitudinal axis.

13. A combustor according to claim 12 wherein the articulating joint comprises at least one longitudinal slide surface.

14. A combustor according to claim 11 wherein the combustor mounting assembly includes an outwardly projecting boss.

15. A combustor according to claim 14 wherein the articulating joint is housed within an internal surface of the boss.

16. A combustor according to claim 15 wherein an external slide surface of the articulating joint is slidably housed within said internal surface of the boss, and wherein the joint is free to slide parallel said longitudinal axis relative to the boss while constrained transverse said longitudinal axis.

17. A combustor according to claim 13 wherein the combustor mounting assembly includes a pin engaging at least one of the first and second portions of the articulating joint.

18. A combustor according to claim 17 wherein the articulating joint includes an internal slide surface and the pin has an external slide surface.

19. A combustor according to claim 11 wherein the first and second portions of the articulating joint have opposing spherical joint surfaces.

20. A combustor according to claim 19 wherein the first and second portions are mutually nested sleeves.

21. A combustor for a gas turbine engine, the combustor comprising:

a pin having a longitudinal axis and a first spherical surface slidingly engaging a second mating spherical surface of a combustor boss.

22. A combustor according to claim 21 wherein at least one of the pin and boss includes one of: an internal longitudinally sliding surface; and an external longitudinally sliding surface.